



**H.Res. 661 - Honoring the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.Res. 661 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Alcee Hastings (D-FL) on September 18, 2007. The bill was referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure, and was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

H.Res. 661 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 11, 2007.

**SUMMARY**

H.Res. 661 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the accomplishments of Barrington Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world and founder of a nonprofit organization that inspires youth to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace;
- Encourages young people and minorities to pursue educational opportunities in preparation for careers in aviation and related industries; and
- Encourages museums throughout the Nation related to aviation to commemorate the historic achievements of Captain Barrington Irving.

**BACKGROUND**

Barrington Irving was born in 1983 in Kingston, Jamaica. At the age of 15 he was given a tour of the cockpit of a Boeing 777.

Irving overcame financial hardship by working miscellaneous jobs that included working for private aircraft owners in exchange for flying lessons. He was the recipient of a joint Air Force/Florida Memorial University Flight Awareness Scholarship to cover college tuition and flying lessons for his volunteer efforts and commitment to community service.

On March 23, 2007, at the age of 23, Irving embarked from Miami, Florida, on a 24,600-mile flight around the world in an airplane named “Inspiration” while still a senior majoring in aerospace at Florida Memorial University.

On June 27, 2007, Irving concluded his flight in Miami, Florida, after stopping in 27 cities throughout the world.

He continues to inspire youth and adults alike with his achievements and work to increase the accessibility of opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

**STAFF CONTACT**

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